GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5072
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2002
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether monitoring committees have been constituted recently at district level to make the public distribution system more effective in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the above Committees at national level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a)&(b): The concept of Monitoring Committees in the form of Vigilance Committees hasbeen an important constituent of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

2. As per PDS guidelines issued in March, 1987 and TPDS guidelines issued in February, 1997 State Governments have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees as a measure of social audit of the working of PDS in the country.In the Model Citizens` Charter issued in November, 1997 for adoption by State Governments, constitution of Vigilance Committees by the State Governments at the level of Panchayat/Ward, Taluk, District and State/UT has also been emphasised. Panchayati Raj Institutions guidelines issued in June, 1999, also state that the Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas should be encouraged to form FPS committees which should include members of existing Vigilance Committees from the FPS of the area and also representatives of consumer groups, women, as well as members of SC/ST/OBCs.Under the TPDS monitoring system, the StateGovernments are required to furnish information on the number of meetings of the Vigilance Committees held during the month at FPS, Block and District level.

3. All the State Governments/UTs except Goa and Daman & Diu have informed regarding constitution of Vigilance Committees at various levels viz., Block, District and State for monitoring the functioning of TPDS.

(c)&(d): PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the StateGovernments. The operational responsibilities including allocation within the State, identification of families below poverty line, issue of ration cards, supervision of functioning of FPSs rests with the State Governments.

The State Governments and UT Administrations are expected to monitor the functioning of vigilance committees in their respective States and take corrective steps as deemed fit.